

Somalia options debated; Republicans want withdrawal

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, angered at the spectacle of an American corpse being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu and chastened by congressional criticism, struggled Wednesday to reshape U.S. involvement in Somalia.



President Bill Clinton

Clinton would publicly clarify American intentions in Somalia, addressing the subject of withdrawal and putting a "tighten rein" over military operations.

Clinton held his second meeting in 12 hours with his top national security aides, including Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary Les Aspin and Marine Gen. Joseph P. Hoar, the commander for the region.

Clinton cancelled several public appearances to focus on the crisis.

In an interview Wednesday, Clinton said: "It curdles the stomach of every American to see that, be-

"It curdles the stomach of every American to see that, because we went there for no purpose other than to keep those people alive."

— President Clinton

cause we went there for no purpose other than to keep those people alive."

"It really makes me angry," he said, adding that he is increasingly reluctant to operate under a United Nations structure that he said no longer provides "the help we need to protect our people."

White House aides and members of Congress who met with Clinton Wednesday said that the president was surprised by the depth of congressional opposition to a continued U.S. presence in Somalia.

Peter G. Torkildsen, R-Mass, quoted U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor as saying that widespread calls from Capitol Hill for a U.S. pullout came "as a wake-up call at the White House."

Schroeder said the administration promised a new policy announcement soon.

On Capitol Hill, 65 House Republicans, including Minority Leader Bob Michel, sent a letter to Clinton demanding a clear and concise description of U.S. policy on Somalia and a

plan for the withdrawal of U.S. forces. "The Somalia policy your administration has pursued is a failure," the lawmakers said.

But Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., speaking on the Senate floor, urged caution and told his colleagues, "it is not a time for panic."

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said there was "an honest debate" going on among Clinton and his national security advisers on the subject, but that no decisions had yet been reached by the president.

Earlier, Communications Director Mark Gearan said the U.S. goal has not changed: Establish a political structure that will prevent the country from descending into chaos and starvation when U.S. troops pull out.

A senior official who asked not to be identified by name suggested that Clinton was not about to order an abrupt withdrawal of troops from Somalia and that the basic goal remained "to draw down American troops as the security situation allows."

Jordan ends career amidst father's death

DEERFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Michael Jordan, basketball's greatest player, announced today that he was retiring after nine seasons in the NBA, saying he "had reached the pinnacle of my career" and had nothing else to prove.



In a news conference at the Chicago Bulls' training center, Jordan said the murder of his father, James, in July made him realize

that "it can be taken away from you at any time."

"I guess the biggest gratification — I am a very positive person — I can get out of my father not being here today is, that he saw my last basketball game. It is something that we have talked about a lot," Jordan said.

The startling announcement by basketball's greatest player leaves the Chicago Bulls without their seven-time scoring champion, the NBA without its glitziest attraction, and millions of fans without the hero who redefined standards of excellence.

Jordan's departure at the top of

"I guess the biggest gratification I can get out of my father not being here today is, that he saw my last basketball game."

— Jordan, retired Bulls' guard

his game occurred during a year of unprecedented success — and personal tragedy. He led his Chicago Bulls to a third-straight NBA championship, but also suffered the loss of his father, who was shot and killed. The 30-year-old superstar, whose salary and endorsements bring him more than \$50 million a year, also was dogged by reports of excessive gambling.

But Jordan left open the possibility of returning to the game.

"Would I ever retire? I don't know. I think the word 'retire' means you can do whatever you want, and maybe someday down the road, that's what I'll desire to do," he said.

Jordan had three years left on his \$4 million-a-year contract.

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Cop: Hungary needs crime-fighting help

By Jeffrey Robb
Staff Reporter

With crime in Hungary rising rapidly as a result of open borders, Hungarian law enforcement officials said Wednesday they must find international help or watch their country become a base for crime in Europe.

Speaking through an interpreter, Andras Horvath, a Budapest police chief said Hungarian police were in the United States to demonstrate the importance of cooperation.

Horvath and his colleagues gave a presentation in the Nebraska Union Wednesday on the last leg of their U.S. tour. They have met with law enforcement officials from Chicago, Charlotte, N.C., and Louisville, Ky.

Lt. Col. Erno Toth, head of Budapest's organized crime division, and Ferenc Esztergalyos, the Hungarian Interpol representative, are also part of the two-week tour organized by University of Nebraska-Lincoln criminal justice professor Chris Eskridge.

Horvath said the crime Hungary was experiencing now was unlike any the country had ever seen. When the Hungarian government began reforms, Horvath said, criminals were quick to take advantage of new targets that freedom provided.

Execution-style homicides, drug trade, kidnapping and a myriad of other organized crime activities became common, Horvath said.

Only recently, he said, has the crime rate begun to stabilize. But a week before he left Hungary, Horvath said, a crime family threatened to kill his and Toth's families before they returned.

Hungary lost its police trainers when it left the Soviet bloc in 1989, Horvath said. Now, Hungary needs a way to organize its police in the fight against the crime wave, he said.

Horvath said Hungary began its break from the Soviet Union long ago with free-market reforms. A side effect of those reforms, he said, was a stratification of rich and poor, which became the root of crime problems.

Early in the reforms, "simple-minded street robbers" were the only criminals. Then bars and nightclubs were eventually bought by criminals, and prostitution and gambling soon followed, Horvath said.

With the reforms, Hungarians could also travel freely, Horvath said, and before long, criminals found their counterparts in other countries. Law enforcement was still insulated then, he said, and police officers couldn't even leave the country.

In 1989, when privatization intensified, the outlook for Hungary was grave, Horvath said. The crime rate grew by 40 to 50 percent, he said.

Eskridge said the United States denied Hungary's plea for help when Hungary tried to break from Soviet influence 30 years ago. But, he said, the United States can't afford to turn its back now.

Eskridge said he hoped the relationship between the countries' law enforcement agencies would continue to develop.

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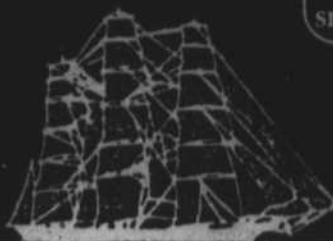
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